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First name: Aaron

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the USFS,

I am an avid climber and outdoor enthusiast. I spend 15 or more days a month outside exploring the wonderful public managed lands our nation works so hard to protect and manage. The language and intention indicated by the current draft of the proposed changes to the climbing management guidance concerns me. Fixed anchors (bolts) are critical to provide a safe environment for those participating in climbing on the lands managed by the NPS, USFS, BLM, and more. This is a complex issue, and I recognize that each decision is made with careful consideration, but this current draft reaches too far and breaks the decades long precedent followed by the land management agencies. I believe the impact to the safety of climbing should the current proposal be adopted will come with the highest of consequences to those participating in the activity. It is no secret that accidents do happen in climbing and often the results are fatal. Banning new and removing currently installed fixed anchors will place climbers of all abilities and levels of experience in far more dangerous situations that would otherwise be safe. There are plenty of other reasons why I am opposed to the current language of the draft, but safety will always be my first and primary concern.

I urge the agencies involved in this decision making process to work closely with organizations like the access fund, climbing coalitions, and leaders in the guiding industry to revise the intent, language, and implementation of the proposed policy guidelines to ensure a safe future for climbing in the USA.

Thank you for reviewing my comments.

Best,

Aaron